

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the reference numerals 18 and 20 have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The office action of September 15, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Finally, claim 1 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, and claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant has enclosed a Replacement Sheet in which the reference numeral 18 has been added to indicate the sealing lip. The "area" of the first sidepiece that is hardened is shown with a dark line in Fig. 1. To better indicate this area the reference numeral 20 has been added. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Thus, the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file contain subject matter which is sufficiently described in the specification so as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the point raised by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted

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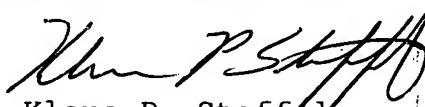
that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Klaus P. Stoffel
Reg. No. 31,668

For: Friedrich Kueffner

Reg. No. 29,482
317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910
New York, New York 10017
(212) 986-3114

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 15, 2008.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: December 15, 2008